## FORM A - AREA SURVEY

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

| Form numbers in this area | Area no. |
|---------------------------|----------|
| 1 - 60                    | E        |
|                           |          |

| 2  | Photo (3x3" or 3x5")                     | 1  |  |
|----|--|----|--|
| ٠. | Staple to left side of form Photo number | 1. |  |
|    | ¢  | ,1 |  |
|    |  | _1 |  |
|    |  | 1  |  |
|    |  |    |  |

1. Town Lexington

Name of area (if any) East Lexington

Historic District (Est. 1958)

3. General date or period 1750 - 1900

major development; modern intrusions

4. Is area uniform (explain):

in style? no - range from pre Revol. to Col. Revival

in condition? no. some houses in disrepair, most well kept.

in type of ownership? public & private

in use? religious, commercial, residential

5. Map. Use space below to draw a general map of the area involved. Indicate any historic properties for which individual reports are completed on Forms B thru F, using corresponding numbers. Show street names (including route numbers, if any) and indicate north. Indicate with an 'x" existing houses not inventoried on Form B.

See attached Town Engineer's map of Historic District

| DO NOT WRITE USGS Quadrant_ | IN | THIS | SPACE |
|-----------------------------|----|------|-------|
| MHC Photo no.               |    |      |       |

| 6. | Recorded by   | E. W. Reinhardt |  |  |  |
|----|---------------|-----------------|--|--|--|
|    | Organization_ | Lex. Hist. Com. |  |  |  |
|    | Date          | 12/75           |  |  |  |

(over)

7. Historical data. Explain the historical/architectural importance of this area.

East Lexington developed as a village separate from the clustered village around the green. E. Lexington's time of greatest prosperity was in the early 19th. century when local industry flourished along the road which would become Massachusetts Ave. The fur processing operation of Ambrose Morell & the multiple dealings of the Robbins family including fur processing, wood & peat selling, & real estate speculation contributed greatly to the area's prosperity. Dairy farming & slaughtering were also part of the economic scene. The high concentration of 5 bay wide, center entrance vernacular farm houses, each with an individualized Greek revival door contributes greatly to the architechural unity of the area. It is thought that Eli Robbins built many of these houses for the people who worked for him in the 1820's & 1830's. The village center is still defined by the cluster of brick store (E-14) Stone building (E-16) & Follen Church (E-17).

8. Bibliography and/or references such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.

Maps - J.G. Hale 1830 Town Survey 1853, 1876

Hudson - History of Lexington







